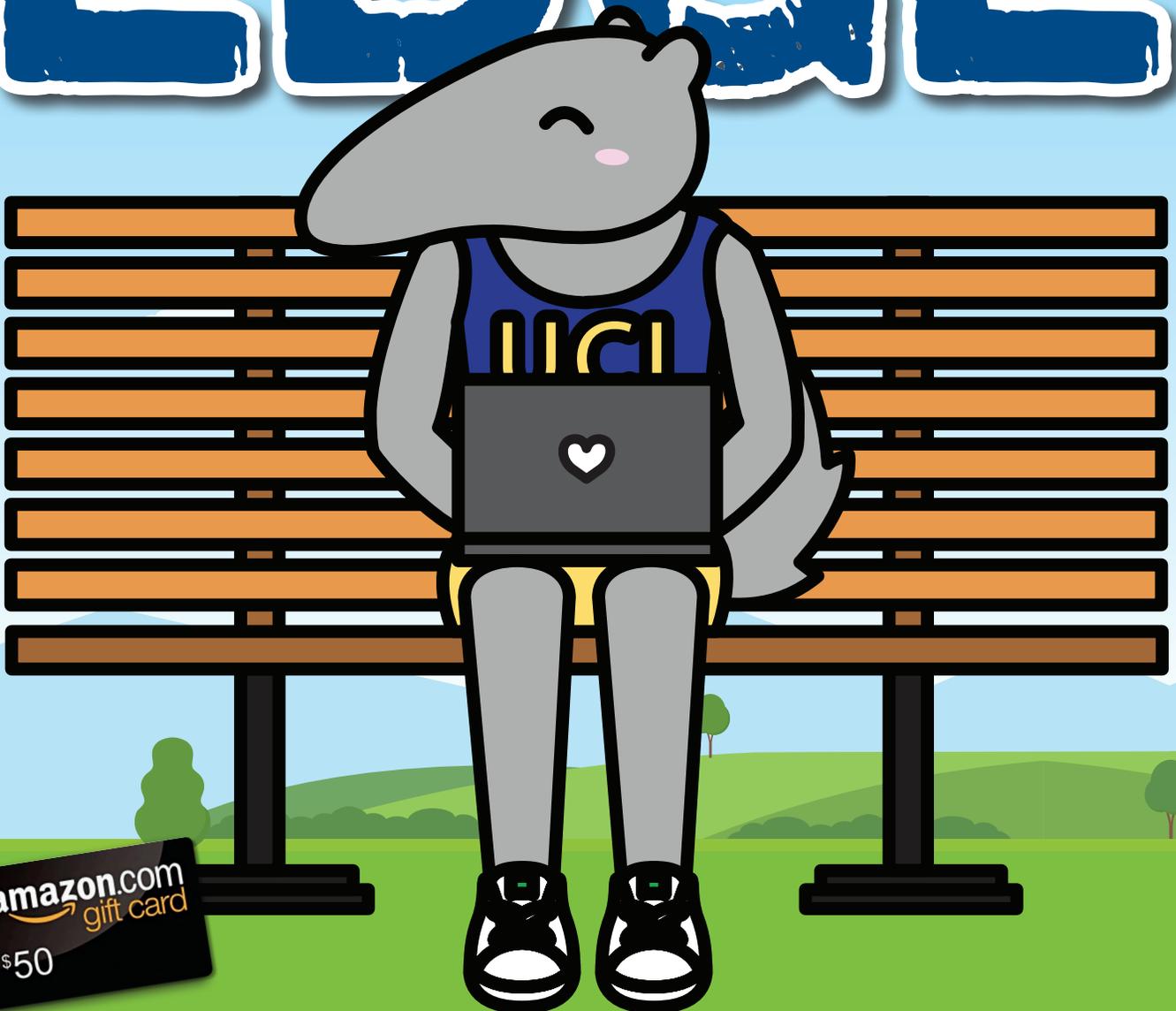


THE EDGE

THIS ISSUE | Navigating a College Journey in a Virtual World



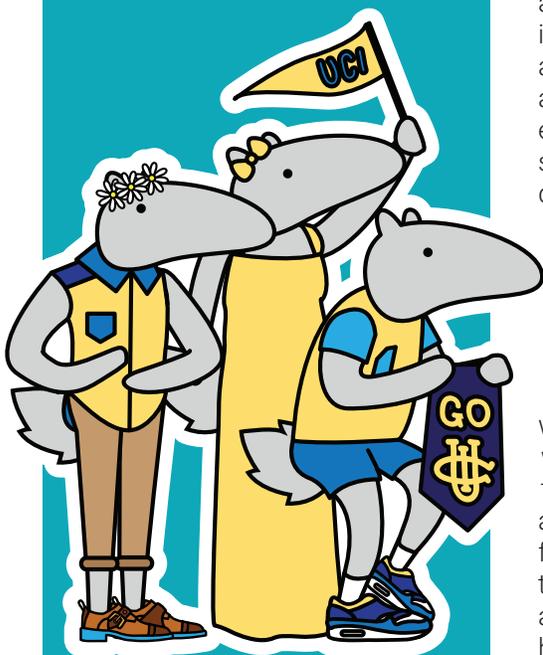
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Turn to the back cover to find out how to win a **FREE \$50** Amazon gift card!

UCI School of Education

INSIDE:

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UCI Center for Educational Partnerships



WELCOME

Dear student,

When I was teaching History at UCI, a student of mine lost her mother to an unexpected illness. Two days later I was surprised to see her in class. I told her that if she needed to take time off to be with her family, I would help her catch up on the missed material. I was giving her permission to be absent from class. She didn't want to. In fact, she said that being in class helped her because it gave her something positive to focus on.

In these trying times, I understand her thinking. As a student, as a teacher, and as a university administrator being in class, writing, reading, studying and thinking has always offered me a sanctuary where I could tune out everything else and immerse myself in something meaningful to me. I hope, despite the challenges you are facing, that your academic interests and pursuits can remind you of the passions and dreams you have that are important to hang on to. Now, more than ever.

Things have been evolving rapidly with the Coronavirus outbreak, and we realize the disruptions – including the switch to remote learning – may at first seem overwhelming. If you are feeling anxious and stressed about the COVID-19 outbreak, you are not alone – many students are experiencing higher than normal stress and anxiety

levels right now. The practical tips and resources you will find here can help you get started as you navigate distance learning both in high school and college.

The team at the Center for Educational Partnerships has been working overtime as we transitioned our summer and fall into online programming and set to work creating support for students to navigate the college application process in this most unusual time. As information has been changing rapidly, you will find all the latest updates here. College application season is a challenge in the best of times so be patient with yourself and take it one day at a time. Use the approaches outlined here to stay organized and focused. Reach out to your instructors and classmates as needed, and use the additional support resources listed here. Remember, you're not alone – we're all in this together and we are committed to helping you make your college dreams a reality. Now, more than ever.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Reyes-Tuccio, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice Chancellor Educational Partnerships, University of California, Irvine

Richard Arum, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education, University of California, Irvine

MANAGING YOUR EDUCATIONAL FUTURE IN A VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

by Alondra Garcia, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

Peter worked very hard during his high school career to become a competitive UC applicant because he understood it would make him eligible to apply to other systems resulting in more options during the college application season.

Peter's strong academic profile resulted in him earning admission to all the campuses he applied to.

Although Peter applied broadly, he had a dream school in mind and told himself he would commit to that institution if he were accepted.

The acceptance letter he worked relentlessly toward since his first day in high school had finally arrived. However, much had changed in his life and the world overall from the time of his application submission to the day of his acceptance letter. A global pandemic had emerged that affected not only his school environment but also his home life. A decision he had foreseen being simple, was now very complex.

Following safety guidelines and taking precaution, Peter was finishing his high school career virtually. Peter understood the importance of distance learning but was still having a hard time at home being able to focus.

Peter was the oldest sibling and looked after his four siblings while his parents were away at work. Classes he found a breeze were suddenly very hard to understand when learning from home.

Peter could not decide whether to commit to UCI because he knew his decision would not only affect him but his family as well. Peter began considering either attending a community college or taking a gap year. In his mind, either of these options meant he could start his college journey on the "right foot" since it would be in-person instruction and helpful for his family.

After speaking with his counselor, Peter acknowledged he possessed the leadership skills necessary to excel within any system, and virtual learning should not be his decisive factor. Peter recognized that the additional responsibility of caring for his siblings was one of the primary reasons he was

distracted in learning at home.

To overcome, Peter used his leadership skills to create a study plan with his family to ensure that he and all his siblings could learn from home. Ultimately, Peter, with his family and community's support, decided to commit to UC Irvine.

Throughout this magazine you will find additional resources to help you successfully navigate the college application process virtually. We hope that Peter's journey will serve as a guide for you.



**Congratulations Peter, You have been accepted to UC Irvine!
Welcome to the Anteater family!**

A-G COURSES: REQUIREMENTS TO GETTING ADMITTED TO A UNIVERSITY

by Cristina Flores, Assistant Director, EAOP, UC Irvine

The UC and Cal State campuses each have subject requirements for admission also known as A-G courses.

Although private and out-of-state schools might not refer to requirements as A-G, they require similar course patterns for admissions. Completing your course requirements for college is an opportunity to explore academic subjects, discover your passions, and demonstrate scholarly excellence. Beyond completing the minimum years required and standard courses, develop an academic plan that reflects your personality, strengths, and academic interests. Although most high school graduation requirements fulfill the A-G categories, there is still an opportunity for you to strategize a unique experience and develop a competitive edge.

Here are 5 quick tips to help you out:

1. Complete 15 courses by senior year with final grades of A, B, or C.
2. Math and Language other than English courses from middle school can also meet the requirements.
3. Take advantage of Honors/AP/IB programs and community college courses.
4. Find the balance between challenging coursework and competitive grades.
5. Select courses that relate to your major or career goals.

See below for some additional recommendations for developing a competitive edge.



CATEGORY	REQUIRED	TIP
A History/Social Science	2 years that include World History and U.S. History	Do not be limited by U.S. or World History, enroll in a community college course to explore additional history topics and ethnic studies.
B English	4 years that include Literature and Composition	If you are not interested in AP courses, enroll in alternative english courses like Film, Literature and Composition to meet this requirement.
C Math	3 years that include Algebra I, Geometry & Algebra II	Most colleges admissions will require Calculus for Engineering majors but regardless of major complete 4 years of math.
D Lab Science	2 years that include Life and Physical Sciences	Complete at least 3 years if you are pursuing a STEM major or other interdisciplinary science courses for non-science majors.
E Language other than English	2 years of the same language	Consider a language you already know to become even more proficient or American Sign Language as a unique alternative .
F Visual and Performing Arts	2 semesters of same discipline from Dance, Interdisciplinary Arts, Music, Theater, or Visual Arts	Applying to art majors will require an audition or portfolio, take as many VAPA courses for opportunities to develop as an artist .
G College Preparatory Elective	1 year or 2 one-semester courses	AVID can fulfill this requirement or going above and beyond the minimum A-Gs will automatically fulfill this category.

TIPS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT DURING THE COVID-19 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

by Julie Lindo, Assistant Director, Upward Bound, UC Irvine

The final year of high school is filled with many unknowns and uncertainties for parents and their students. Because of COVID-19, students may face many new obstacles. This fall, seniors will not only think about deciding where to apply for college, what major(s) to study, to commute or live on campus, but also face questions of how classes will be held and how they will afford everything. Because of this, you can expect just about anything from your senior this year as external pressures continue to grow.

As an educator and parent, I have experienced many of those same uncertainties with my daughter. It was and will continue to be challenging to find the right amount of balance in support while helping her through her journey.

One way to support your student is to prepare by reviewing the Senior Timeline (pages 6 & 7). After deciding where your senior wants to apply, take note of the application deadlines,

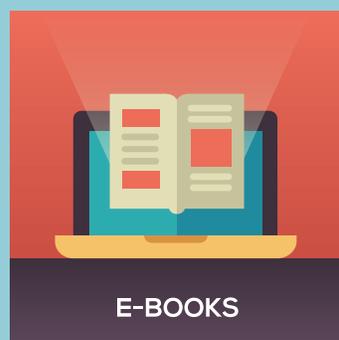
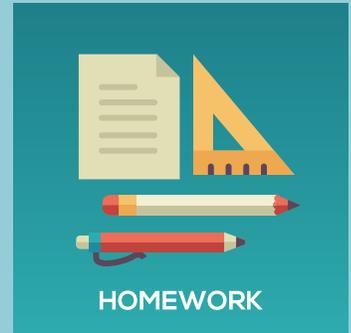
and work with them to ensure all requirements have been met. Don't forget to also take note of the changes due to COVID-19, as many testing requirements, such as the SAT and ACT, have been waived for the CSU and UC systems. Many private colleges and universities have also waived this requirement, but you will need to check their specific requirements.

Although courses may continue to be online due to the pandemic, the cost of tuition and fees will likely not decrease. So have patience with them as all colleges and universities have been working diligently to reassure students that the online platform they have adopted will provide education without compromising the quality.

Affordability of higher education is a significant concern for seniors and their families. Completing the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application can help families afford college. Having the required documentation prepared early can ease the process of applying for financial aid and receiving preliminary financial aid eligibility. The application period closes on March 2, 2021. (page 10)

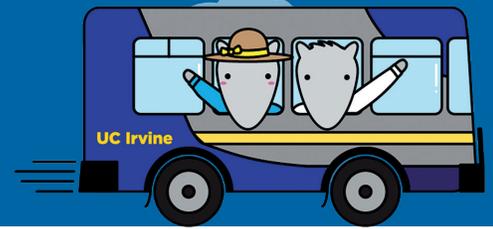
Lastly, trust your instincts and give your senior the support they need. Sometimes it means helping them contact institutions with questions, encouraging them to contact their counselor or college representatives. Virtual appointments can be intimidating, but more than ever, everyone is more

than willing to help you and your senior to complete a successful application season and year!



2020-21 SENIOR TIMELINE

by Erick Espino, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine



SEPTEMBER

- Create a list of universities you plan to apply to and participate in any online college fairs your school may be hosting.
- Identify two or three people to help review your college application materials, specifically your PIQ if applying to the UC.
- Ask for any letters of recommendation for colleges that require them for admissions, be sure to give your recommenders an ample amount of time.

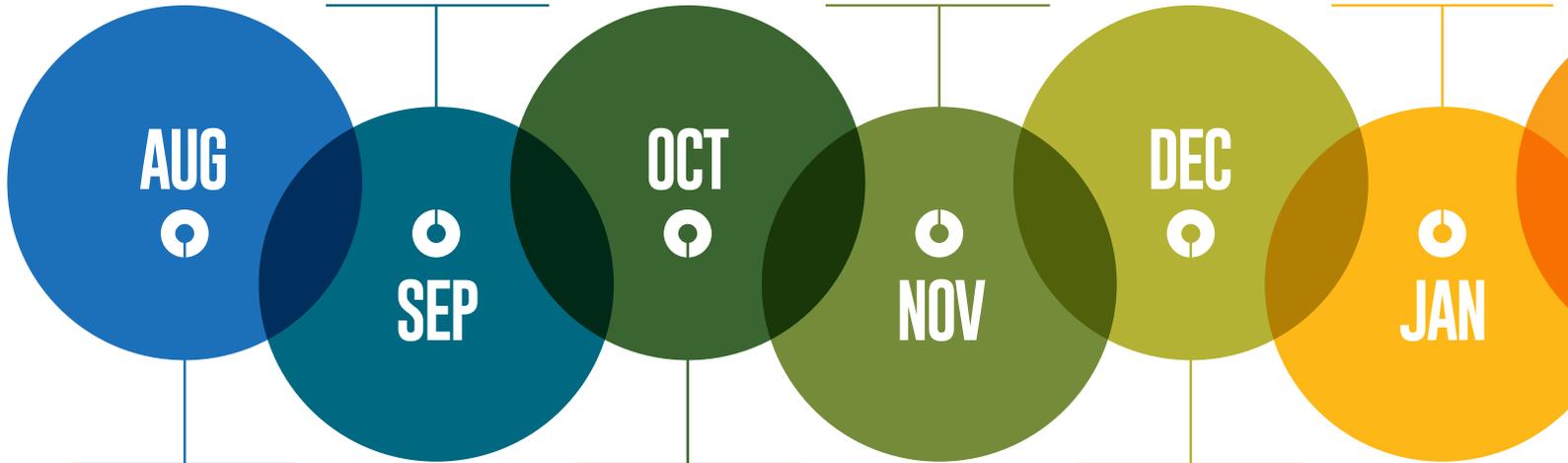


NOVEMBER

- **November 1st-30th:** Filing Period for UC Application
- **November 30:** UC applications due!
- Make sure you have your college applications reviewed prior to submitting!

JANUARY

- Ask your counselor about your Cal Grant GPA Verification Form and make sure it gets submitted.



AUG



SEP

OCT



NOV



DEC



JAN



AUGUST

- ✓ **August 1st:** UC Application open at <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply-now.html>
- ✓ If planning to submit the UC application, now is a good time to start preparing responses for the Personal Insight Questions (PIQs). See page 12 for help.
- ✓ Search and apply for available scholarships.

OCTOBER

- **October 1:** CSU Application opens
- **October 1:** CA Dream Act and FAFSA applications open!
- **October 1:** Filing period for Cal Grant GPA Verification Form submission begins.
- Speak to your counselor and see if there will be any virtual college fairs offered by your school or community partners.
- Visit admission pages of the campuses you are applying to and participate in virtual college tours.

DECEMBER

- **Dec 4:** CSU Application due!
- We highly recommend that you send your test scores to the schools that you applied to.
**Note that this is not a requirement, as the SAT and ACT exams have been deemed optional for the 2021-22 application period.*
- Continue searching and applying for available scholarships!



MARCH

- **March 1:** You are almost there! Notification of Fall 2021 admissions decisions begins. Keep an eye on your email and postal mail for acceptance letters; Be patient, it may take time for them to get to you!
- **March 2:** California Dream Act and FAFSA Application DUE for priority consideration of financial aid!
- **March 2:** Deadline to submit Cal Grant GPA Verification Form to be eligible for Cal Grants.
- **March 31:** Notification of Fall 2021 admissions decisions for freshman applicants is complete.

MAY

- **May 1:** Deadline for admitted freshman to submit Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) to UC/CSU campuses.
- Notify all colleges of acceptance or rejection of admission or financial aid offers.
- Be sure to apply for housing by the deadline if planning to live on campus.
- All incoming UC freshman who have not met the Entry Level Writing Requirements by April 1st must Take Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) test. For more info visit: <https://www.ucop.edu/elwr/>
- Prepare for your AP Exams: Make sure to take the AP exams listed on your college applications.
- Look into Summer Bridge/Summer Start opportunities offered at the school you commit to.

JULY

- **July 1:** Deadline to submit final, official transcripts to UC campuses.
- **July 15:** Deadline to submit official AP, IB exam results to UC campus admissions office. Test scores must be postmarked or electronically submitted on or before July 15.

FEB



MAR

APR



MAY

JUN



JUL



FEBRUARY

- Visit college admission pages for the schools you applied to, and participate in virtual college tours, so you are ready to make a decision when admission letters start coming in next month!

APRIL

- Compare all of your Financial Aid Award letters. Be sure to contact the Financial Aid office if you have any questions.
- Visit Campus Open Houses, whether it be in person or virtually, and begin finalizing your decision about which campus you will attend in the fall.
- Maintain academic GPA; Remember, you must pass all courses with a "C" or better to keep your admissions to all universities.

JUNE

- Request and send official transcripts from your high school registrar and make sure they are sent to the university you plan to enroll in.
- Be sure to complete any items on your college portal to-do list!
- Continue searching and applying for available scholarships as it is not too late to apply! Look at School/Major specific scholarships.

COLLEGE APPLICATION COMPARISON

by Veronica Zamora, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

	COMMUNITY COLLEGE	CAL STATE UNIVERSITY	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	PRIVATE AND OUT-OF-STATE
WEBSITE	cccapply.org	calstate.edu/apply	universityofcalifornia.edu/apply	commonapp.org
COLLEGES	116 Community Colleges	23 CSUs	9 UCs	900 Colleges
APPLICATION FEE	\$0 per campus	\$70 per campus <i>Fee waivers available</i>	\$70 per campus <i>Fee waivers available</i>	\$30 - \$75 per campus <i>Fee waivers available</i>
APPLICATION	Availability varies by campus: 1 application per campus	Available October 1st 1 application for all campuses	Available August 1st 1 application for all campuses	Available August 1st 1 application for all campuses <i>Not all private institutions accept applications via the common app.</i>
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	18+ years old , high school diploma, GED or equivalent	Complete 15 A-G courses.	Complete 15 A-G courses	Varies by campus , but many colleges will have similar requirements to the UC's and CSUs. Some will require additional courses or exams
MINIMUM GPA REQUIREMENT	NONE	2.0 minimum GPA in all your A-G classes completed after the 9th grade	3.0 minimum GPA in 10th & 11th A-G classes	GPA requirement varies by college
ENTRANCE EXAMS	NONE	SAT or ACT: Due to COVID-19 exam requirements are temporarily suspended for the 2021-22 application cycle	SAT or ACT with Writing: Due to COVID-19 exam requirements are temporarily suspended for the 2021-22 application cycle	SAT or ACT: Varies by campus. Some will require the exams, some may require and some may not. Review testing policy of the colleges you apply to.
COLLEGE ESSAY	NONE	If student applies to EOP program, short response is required.	Personal Insight Questions	Personal Essay and College-Specific Questions
LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	NONE	If student applies to EOP program, 2 letters of recommendation are required.	Some campuses may ask students to complete a supplemental application, which requires letters of recommendation.	Varies by campus, but many colleges will ask for letters of recommendation.
APPLICATION DEADLINES	Deadline for term enrollment varies by campus	December 4	November 30	Deadlines vary by type of admissions decision
STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS	Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS)	Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)	UC offers a variety of programs and services designed to help students	Programs vary by campus. Research what services you would like at your campus!
COVID-19 CAMPUS RESPONSE	https://bit.ly/3gfvY6D	https://bit.ly/2YhKyo5	https://bit.ly/34tdSMj	https://bit.ly/3iUTese

UC FOR YOU

by Bryan Jue, Director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, UC Irvine

From the college admissions side, I never liked the term “You’ve been accepted.”

From my point of view, we do not “accept” you but rather admit you. Once that happens, you, as the student have all the power to accept our offer. If admitted to the University of California, why should you choose the UC system from all the other options you have? As a staff member and proud alumni, I want to provide three reasons why you should “choose” a UC.

First, UC’s are all about research. Research has shown that students who enroll at UC can achieve incomes that surpass their parents, especially students from low-income brackets. For example, 93% of the students that come from the lowest income bracket and attended UC came out with higher incomes than their parents. On average, UC alumni experience a doubling of salary between 2 and 10 years after graduation.

Secondly, the real secret to these income levels and outcomes as alumni is not simply tied to attending a UC, but it is in the resources that we offer. UC attracts students from every country in the world, and when you leave, you become part of a network of 1.8 million alumni. The connections you make while you are in class, while participating in student organizations, or when you engage in research opportunities will help you thrive, and are all here to enhance your education. Finally, UC is the university system of today. We are not bound by tradition or a reputation we have to upkeep, but we evolve and prepare students for an ever-changing global society.

This current crisis is why we need students like you at UC. For example, UC is leading the charge to advocate for undocumented students. UC students have a long history of providing a voice for social justice, and our research in health sciences and public health will hopefully bring about a quick resolution to this pandemic. We provide the forum for you to become a leader and change-maker in society. Your ability to get admitted into a UC demonstrates that you belong and we believe you will thrive and affect change for the greater good when you leave. I truly hope you would consider the extraordinary offer of admissions when given a chance and that you will choose UC.



FUNDING YOUR FUTURE

by Daisy Calderon, Community Coordinator, GEAR UP, UC Irvine

The world is evolving, and it's evident in more than just the virtual world. With communities uprising for institutional accountability, Peter the Anteater can't help but realize the universities' responsibility in offering financial support. Although more work still needs to be done to open the doors for all students, both colleges and government entities offer financial aid to support access to higher education.

The types of aid can be broadly categorized into either free money versus borrowed money. Free money, or **Gifted Aid**, includes grants, scholarships, and work-study that do not have to be paid back. In contrast, borrowed money, or **Loan Aid**, must be paid back to the lender. The Estimated Cost of attending an institution of higher education will be calculated by adding offered Gift Aid, Loan Aid, and an Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).

When looking into the vast range of aid available, it can feel overwhelming. A great place for any prospective student to begin is reflecting on their own identity, because who you are matters.

Depending on students' citizenship status, applicants may apply to either the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or the [California Dream Act Application \(CADAA\)](#).

The FAFSA is administered through the federal government and is only available for U.S. citizens or residents demonstrating financial need and if enrolling in an institution to obtain an educational degree or certificate. The initial deadline for FAFSA submission is **March 2nd, 2021**. By filling out the FAFSA, students become eligible for state grants, federal grants, and federal loans; other aid may also be available depending on whether students identify as part of a military family or are prospective international students.

In contrast, the CADAA, also known as the CA Dream Act Application or

Dream App, is administered by the California state government for undocumented and non-resident students who qualify for a non-resident exemption under AB 540 and are pursuing an educational degree or certificate. The deadline to submit the CADAA online application is **March 2nd, 2021**. Other financial aid offered to undocumented students studying within California include the Middle-Class Scholarship, Cal Grant, State University Grants, and UC Grants.

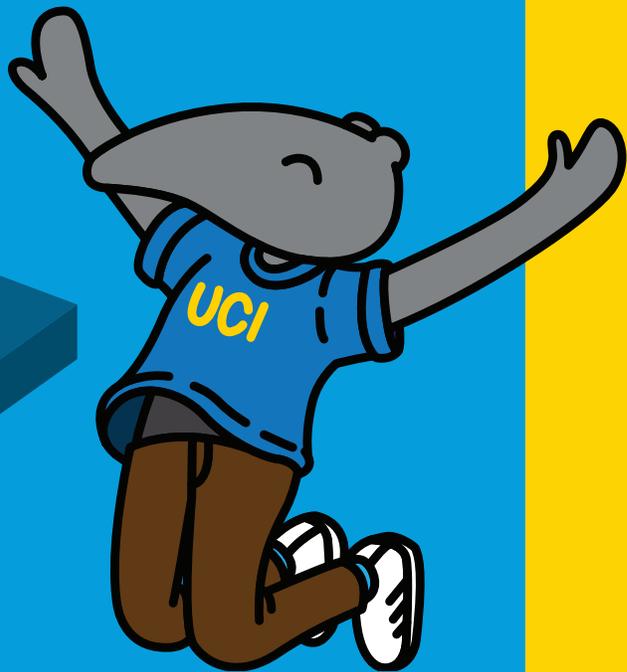
Financial aid is also offered for any prospective college students who have been in the foster care system through the Chafee Grant and the Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program. The Chafee Grant is accessible to any students who were or are in foster care for at least one day between the ages of 16 and 18.



To apply for the Chafee Grant, be sure to submit the California Chafee Grant application AND your FAFSA or CADAA online by March 2nd, 2021. Conversely, the ETV Program serves students who remained in the foster care system until the age of 16. Unlike the other applications, the Foster Care Manager at the Child Welfare Agency must be contacted to apply to the ETV Program.

Regardless of your situation there are ways to fund your future, and finances should not be a deciding factor when it comes to deciding whether to attend college.

The UCs offer their prospective students further support. They acknowledge the importance of ensuring that low income, California students receive the necessary financial aid to attend their institutions. Thus they also offer the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BLUE AND GOLD OPPORTUNITY PLAN

The University of California is committed to you! Through the UC's Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, California residents who qualify for financial aid and whose total family income is less than \$80,000 will not have to pay the UC's systemwide tuition and fees.

YES, you read that correctly! You will not have to pay the UC's systemwide tuition and fees!! Even better, Blue and Gold students who have sufficient financial need can qualify for additional grant aid to help pay for the cost of other college-related expenses, such as books, housing, transportation, and more!

If you qualify, your tuition and fees will be fully covered by a combination of federal, state, UC, and private scholarships or grant money. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be a California resident or have AB 540 status
- Be a first time UC undergraduate student
- Submit either the FAFSA or California Dream Act Application (CADAA), as well as the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form by March 2nd
- Demonstrate a total family income of less than \$80,000 and financial need, as determined for federal need-based aid programs
- Meet other campus-specific, basic requirements for UC grant aid. Examples of other requirements may include:
 - At least half-time enrollment during the academic year
 - Meet campus academic requirements and continuous progress standards
 - Not be in default on student loans
 - Be in good academic and financial standing

There is no application required to submit. Just be sure to complete the eligibility requirements listed above and nothing else will need to be done! If all items are complete, the UC will do its part to make sure your tuition and fees are covered!

For more information visit: <http://bit.ly/UCblueandgold>

HOW TO BEST TACKLE THE PERSONAL INSIGHT QUESTIONS

by Paola Sotelo, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine



The Personal Insight Questions, also known as PIQs, are a major component of the UC admission application.

It is not reviewed as a stand-alone part of the application. These are short answer responses about you, the applicant, and should not be looked at as an essay.

There are eight questions to choose from, yet you only respond to four. Each response is limited to a maximum of 350 words, and all questions are given equal consideration. Which question you choose to answer is entirely up to you. There is no right or wrong way to answer the prompt, but the content of the personal insight responses should add clarity, richness, and meaning to the information presented in other parts of the UC application. In doing so, this will enable the admissions officer to form the best impression of you. Additionally, although we are in the middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is important to respond to the questions directly, do not feel the need to mention the pandemic in every response.

Make sure that you respond to the four that you are MOST able to relate to. Don't force yourself to answer a question because you think the

admissions officer would like to see it answered. Here are a few tips to help guide you in the right direction for your responses.

1. Start Early

To ensure that you have the best responses, you want to start writing early. The earlier you start, the less stress for you later on.

2. Be Personal

This is an absolute MUST. This is why they are called the PERSONAL insight questions. You want to ensure that you are using "I" statements. Admission officers are expecting you to share a story that is unique to YOU.

3. COVID-19

Recognizing the Extraordinary Challenges and changes the COVID-19 pandemic has created, we recommend that you use the two additional comments sections to address specific COVID -19 related challenges.

If it relates to your academic courses, please use the additional comments under Academic History.

If anything not related to your courses, please use the additional comments section under the PIQ sections.

If you have additional questions, talk to your college advisor.

4. Proofread and Edit

Although the UCs aren't focusing on your grammar, you must proofread and edit your work. It is nice for an admissions officer to read through your responses and find them to be content-rich with great flow.

5. Solicit Feedback

Soliciting feedback is one of the most important parts of this process. Your first draft of your responses will not be your best, so feedback is necessary. Consider asking your counselors, outreach programs, or teachers to review your work.

6. Relax

After everything we have covered, you want to make sure that you relax! The personal insight questions are the most challenging part of the UC application. Once this section is done, the rest is a breeze!

The personal insight questions are your way to give the universities a sense of your personality, your perspective on the world, and some experiences that have made you who you are. The questions touch on many qualities that the admission officers are looking for, put your best foot forward and good luck!

COLLEGE ACCESS AND SUCCESS FOR UNDOCUSTUDENTS

by Cristina Flores, Assistant Director, EAOP, UC Irvine

Preparing for college for undocumented students can be filled with uncertainties and concerns.

We recognize the unique challenges undocumented students encounter in preparing for higher education. All these sentiments and questions are valid.

Students might question their eligibility: *"Can I even go to college?"*

Yes, you can go to college!

- ▶ UndocuStudents are eligible to attend all institutions of higher education in California.
- ▶ Apply to the [California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Application](#) to be considered an [AB540 student](#) and pay CA resident tuition regardless of immigration status.

Their ability to afford college might be another concern: *"Am I eligible for financial aid?"*

Yes, you can apply for state financial aid!

- ▶ AB540 students must complete the [California Dream Act](#) application by March 2nd of their senior year regardless of their DACA status.
- ▶ State Aid includes community college fee waivers, Cal Grants, and University Grants.

- ▶ Non-AB540 students can also apply for private scholarships without citizenship restrictions.

Non-DACA undocumented student might also question their career options: *"If I am not eligible for employment, what is the value of a college degree."*

Yes, you can have a successful career as an undocumented college graduate!

- ▶ Higher education institutions offer logistical and legal support to develop career plans regardless of federal work eligibility.

The state of California and all the public systems and private institutions of higher education have laws, policies, and programs to support UndocuStudents in California.

During the college application process UndocuStudents are also eligible for application fee waivers for the CSU and UC systems! Counselors and outreach staff are knowledgeable and available to assist you with your college plans. As a high school student consider joining an outreach or pre-college program to receive additional support and accurate information.

College Success for UndocuStudents

Finding a support network is the key to success for UndocuStudents in higher education. Most public and private colleges and universities offer services or have established resource centers specifically for UndocuStudents.

Resource centers offer a wide range of services that include academic, social, and professional support. They might also connect UndocuStudents to additional legal services. Specifically, in the UC system, the [UC Immigrant Legal Service Center](#) addresses immigration-related legal needs of undocumented and immigrant students.

As DACA continues to be debated in the current political climate, university staff continue to support DACA and Non-DACA UndocuStudents. Currently, some campuses are developing professional fellowship programs for Non-DACA students to gain professional experience and earn a stipend. Beyond specific resources, most California colleges and universities offer academic support programs to support UndocuScholars and health programming developed explicitly for immigration-related concerns. During the current remote instruction phase, all programs and resource centers offer their services virtually.

Our legal and ethical commitment to you is to provide resources, promote inclusivity, and protect your confidentiality to ensure access and success for UndocuStudents!



FINDING THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR YOU IN A VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

by Paola Sotelo, Program Coordinator, EAOP, UC Irvine

Oh, what a time to be alive!

This year, you have been challenged in ways that you never imagined possible, but you are still here and about to embark on your college application journey. Of course, with a spin VIRTUALLY!

Although this situation is not ideal, you still need to take advantage of the opportunities colleges provide. Due to the pandemic, many of you haven't had the chance to visit a college campus. Fortunately, there are some convenient and easy ways to get the information you need to help make one of the biggest decisions of your life.

Here are some tips for you to make the best possible decision without having to step foot on campus:

Take a virtual tour

Thanks to technology, many colleges and universities offer virtual campus tours, allowing you to experience the campus even when you can't physically be there. These tours typically show you living areas, classrooms, dining halls, campus facilities, sporting events, and more to get a sense of academic and social life. You can usually find campus tours on a college's admission page. Don't forget to keep a list of the institution's pros and cons (see the next page) while on the virtual tour to help you make your college decision.

Work with counselors or academic outreach programs

You have a wealth of valuable resources for college information available to you, like your high school guidance counselor or academic outreach programs. During this time, many counselors and outreach programs provide opportunities for you to connect with them via Google Meet or Zoom. Take advantage of this! You can set up a one-on-one advising session and get all your questions answered.

Tap into social media

Now more than ever, you can take advantage of social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. There, you can get a sense of what is going on at the school and get a sense of the social and cultural vibe. You can also see comments and real opinions of students that currently attend the school. Don't be shy, send them a direct message to learn more about their experience.

Check out blogs, vlogs, and podcasts

In particular, YouTube can provide you with an inside look at the school and how students engage with it. Search the university's YouTube channel for specific topics you're interested in, such as sports, social activities, or other extracurriculars. Listen to podcasters who are current students at these colleges who are willing to share about their experience that you don't often read about.

Take these tips and make them your own. Don't let the fear of the pandemic stop you from attending the college or university of your dreams. You want to explore ALL your options such as the UCs, CSUs, Community Colleges and Private schools. Here at the UC, we connect with students like yourself to provide as much information as

possible to help you make an informed decision. At the end of the day, it is your decision, but know that YOU BELONG at the UC!



	MOST IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	LEAST IMPORTANT
LOCATION			
Distance from home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-campus setting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geography: beaches, mountains, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ACADEMICS			
Majors offered	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic reputation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teaching style	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Classes outside your major	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Class size	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CAMPUS			
Size	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Atmosphere	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dorms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost (tuition, room, board, fees)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial aid	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SOCIAL LIFE			
Clubs, sports and recreational opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Art scene	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Greek life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Going to college with friends from high school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

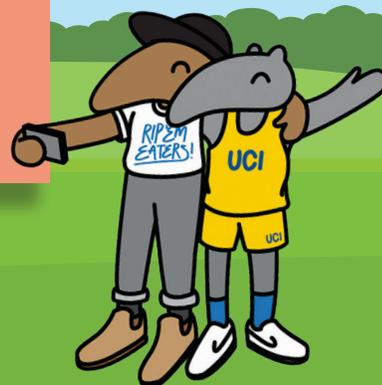
Finding the Perfect College Exercise

As you research colleges, you must ensure that they are a good “college fit”. Not sure what that means? A good college fit means finding a college that offers what you need in terms of academics, location, campus, and social life.

The chart to the left contains many college fit factors. Go through each factor and identify, whether it is most important, somewhat important, or least important. The most important factors are those you will want to prioritize. Prioritizing what matters to you will help you add or eliminate potential schools from your college search.

Now that you’ve identified the factors most important to you, in the space below, list your top 5 college options that match your college fit!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____





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HELPFUL INTERNET RESOURCES

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